

The Humble /  
REPRESENTATION  
AND  
PETITION  
OF THE  
OFFICERS of the ARMY,  
TO THE  
PARLIAMENT  
of the Commonwealth of ENGLAND.

Presented to them Wednesday the fifth  
of October, 1659. by Major General *Disbrow*, accompanied  
with the Field-Officers of the Army, and subscribed by above two  
hundred and thirty Commission Officers in and about London.

Together with the Parliaments Answer thereunto.

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Wednesday, Octob. 5. 1659.

Ordered by the General Council of the Officers of the Army of this  
Commonwealth, That the Representation and Petition be forthwith  
Printed and Published.

*Thomas Standford*, Secretary.

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Printed in the Year, 1659.

*Half bound*

THE HISTORY  
OF THE  
REVOLUTION  
OF THE  
ARMY  
IN  
PARLIAMENT

OF THE  
COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN  
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

IN THE YEAR 1780  
BY  
JAMES O'NEILL, ESQ.  
OF THE ARMY

IN TWO VOLUMES  
LONDON:  
PRINTED BY  
J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, 1780.

Printed in the Year 1780

(32)  
The Humble  
REPRESENTATION  
AND  
PETITION

OF THE  
Officers of the Army,

To the Parliament of the Common-  
wealth of ENGLAND,

*Sheweth,*

**T**hat having had by Your order some late Votes of Par-  
liament communicated to us by Lieutenant General  
*Fleetwood*, our Commander in Chief, occasioned by  
a Debate in Parliament, upon the Petition and Proposals of the  
Officers, under the Command of the Lord *Lambert* in the late  
Northern expedition; We have enquired diligently into our  
hearts and wayes, with reference thereunto; and finding no-  
thing amongst us but faithfulness and integrity to the Parlia-  
ment and this Commonwealth, we cannot but be sensible that  
there hath not wanted some persons, who have endeavoured to  
beget mis-understanding between the Parliament and Army:  
and to that end have represented our Actions and Intentions so,  
as it is taken for granted there hath been irregularity amongst  
us, at which we fear you have taken offence. Whereas we are



perswaded, that if there had not been an anticipation, it would have appeared to all unprejudiced Spirits, that neither we, (who for the generality of us, were utterly ignorant of that whereat the offence is taken) nor our faithful brethren of the Northern Brigade, who Signed the said petition and Proposals, did Design or Intend any thing tending to the interruption of the Parliament, the prejudice of this Commonwealth, or any other by, or sinister respect, not becoming the Trust reposed in us. Wherefore being sensible of the evil Use that persons abroad may make from the least apprehensions of Difference between the Parliament and Army, and that we may as much as in us lies, remove all occasions of Surmize, justifie our own innocencie before you, and frustrate the expectations of any, who by blowing up the Coals of Dissention, hope to warm themselves thereby:

We have thought it our duty to present our naked thoughts to You, and hope You will find so much of integrity and approved faithfulness in us, for the welfare of this Commonwealth, as may continue a firm confidence of us, and engage Your zeal against all such as shall go about to reproach Your faithfull Army, or any Member thereof for the future: especially considering that the Peace of these Nations, next under God, depends so much upon a Cordial and Affectionate Agreement and Union of the Parliament and Army, and an un-interrupted good understanding of each other, and therefore we do humbly and plainly declare,

i. That notwithstanding what any persons may suggest or say to the contrary, we are not for, but against the setting up of any Single Person whatsoever in Supreme Authority: and for a demonstration hereof, we may appeal to Your own judgements upon our late Actings; wherein, since our Declaration of the sixth of May last, we have with all industry and faithfulness endeavoured to render our selves serviceable to You and this Commonwealth, and have chearfully observed Your commands; some of us with our lives in our hands in Your late service, wherein to our great encouragement the Lord hath once more appeared

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appeared to own You and Your Army, and the good old Cause for which we have contended. And at the late return of this Parliament to the discharge of their remaining Trust, We did with simplicity and plainnesse in Our Humble Petition and Adresse presented to you, manifest Our hearts and desires, and that with much unanimity and fulnesse of consent, which we apprehended was well accepted by You.

2. That we have not since changed our principles, ( leading to a well regulated Commonwealth, wherein the Liberties of the people thereof, both Spiritual and Civil, may be fully secured, and persons of known integrity, piety, and ability, employed in places of Trust and concernment ) but resolve by the assistance of God to remain constant to them. And make it our humble prayer to God, that he would incline Your hearts effectually to prosecute the same; and make You instrumental in bringing forth such a foundation of Government, whereby all the good people of these Nations may rationally expect; that such Liberties and Rights shall be preserved to them and their posterities. And we can truly say, that it is in our hearts earnestly, to desire, that God would crown You with the honour of making these Nations happy by such a settlement, as may not be liable at every change of Governours to have the peace thereof disturbed, by introducing new Governments.

3. Whereas a Petition and Proposals were lately drawn up by the Officers of the Brigade that ( under the Command of Major General *Lambart* ) hazarded themselves in Your service with good successe, whereby through the blessing of God upon them and others of Your faithful friends and servants, the peace of this Commonwealth is still continued. And the said Petition was sent up to some Officers here, to be presented to the Lord *Fleetwood*, which hath been by some interpreted to evil and sinister ends, and from thence suggestions derived, as if there were intentions to violate the Parliament, to set up a single person, or another General, in order thereunto; We do sincerely professe ( what ever the designs of any persons may be to promote such causelesse jealousies ) We have had no other then  
faith

faithfulnesse and candor in our hearts and actions towards the Parliament, nor do we apprehend (with submission we speak it) any reason or cause of offence to be conceived against Your faithful servants, who lately gave so ample proof of their fidelity and courage.

4. We cannot but esteem ourselves unhappy to have been so mis-represented to the Parliament, as should occasion such a publique admonition upon record; And considering what evil use may be made of these things by the publique Enemy, and to the end they may be disappointed of their hopes, and all such persons discouraged as shall go about for the future, to promote jealousies, or by misinformation to beget divisions betwixt the parliament and their faithfull servants the Army, and that a good understanding may be preserved between them, We humbly pray,

I.

That the Officers of the Army, and particularly those who have reason to bear the marks of your favour for their faithfulnesse in the late Northern expedition, may stand right in your opinion and have your countenance.

I I.

That whatsoever person or persons shal for the future groundlessly and causlessly inform the House against your Servants, thereby creating jealousies, and casting scandalous imputations upon them, may be brought to examination, justice, and condign punishment.

I I I.

That it being an undoubted Right of the people to have a Liberty in a peaceable and submissive way, to petition the Supream Authority, which liberty hath been by your selves asserted, allowed, and approved of, we cannot but also assert the said Liberty, and humbly conceive that your faithfull Servants of the Army have no way forfeited their Rights as Freemen: And that therefore they hope it will be no offence for them to submit their humble desires to the Parliament: And we hope and pray you will not discourage them from so doing.

I V.



That you would be pleased to take into your serious consideration the necessitous condition of the poor Souldiers of your Armies, and that all possible care may be taken for their timely supply, their wants being such as earnestly call for it; And that some speedy and effectuell course may be taken to provide for the maimed Souldiers, and the poor Widows and Orphans of such as have been slain in your Service, that the blessing of the desolate may be upon you.

## V.

That such who have freely offered themselves in the several Counties and Cities of these Nations, to own and stand by you and your Cause in the late Insurrection, with the hazard of all that is dear unto them, may have your encouragement, and be employed in places of Trust and Command.

## V I.

That ( it being a thing granted by all, that without the due execution of martial Discipline, the Peace, Union, and good government of an Army cannot be preserved ) the discipline of the Army may be preserved inviolable, and in particular that no Officer or Souldier of your Armies may be cashiered or dismissed from their places without a due proceeding at a Court Martial, or by his own consent, except in cases of Reducements, or Disbandings.

## V I I.

That it being judged necessary by the Parliament for the keeping of the Army under such a Conduct as may render the same serviceable to the Commonwealth; to appoint a Committee of Nomination, for the proposing of Officers to the Parliament for their Approbation, we humbly pray, that no Officers may be brought into the Army but such as shall first come under the consideration of the said Committee, and be by them presented.

## V I I I.

The office of the Commander in Chief of the Army being of so great concernment to the peace of this Commonwealth,  
and

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and his Commission at present ( as we conceive ) expiring within a few Moneths, we humbly pray, that the consideration of that matter may come before you, and some such effectually course taken therein, as may prevent our fears, and the hazard of leaving the Army to confusion.

I X.

And that you would retain a good opinion of your Army, and, against all discouragements whatsoever, proceed in the carrying on of that good work intrusted in your hands for the glory of God, and advantage of these Nations. In the prosecution whereof, through the help of our God we shall be found ( notwithstanding all endeavours to the contrary ) faithful to you and this Commonwealth.

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Wednesday, Octob. 5. 1659.

**O**rdere*d by the Parliament, That the Petition and Representation of the Army, and the particulars thereof be taken into consideration on Saturday next.*

*The Officers being called in again, Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the House, gave them this Answer.*

*Gentlemen,*

**T**He Parliament hath read your Representation and Petition, and taking notice of the good expressions of your affections and faithfulness to this Parliament and Commonwealth which are therein, have commanded me to return you the thanks of this House, and in their Name I give you thanks accordingly. I am likewise commanded to let you know, that the Parliament hath already taken into consideration the relief of the poor Widows, Orphans, and maimed Soldiers, to whom Pensions have been formerly allowed, and a way for satisfaction of the Arrears due to the Officers and Souldiers, and shall endeavour to bring the same to a speedy effect. The other matters of your Petition are appointed to be taken into consideration on Saturday next.

*Thomas St. Nicholas  
Cler. of the Parliament.*